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Gino Bardi

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By GINO BARDI

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ARE WE ARYANS?

By GINO BARDI

I

IN THE heart of the Mediterranean Sea, cradle of civilization, was born Modern Italy. It is the creation of a poet, Dante, who gave it a language; of Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci, who gave it an art; of Galileo and Giordano Bruno, who gave it a science; of Mazzini and Garibaldi, who gave it liberty. They expressed the Italian people's love for beauty, their hunger for knowledge, their struggle for freedom.

This child of poets and artists, scientists and revolutionary heroes, grown to manhood, lies in bondage. Oppression and suffering have distorted its features. The poets and heroes of today who would save it from death are exiled or imprisoned or murdered. The blackest of Black Plagues has brought it down to the lowest depths of barbarism and spiritual and cultural depravity.

Where once the gentle Leonardo da Vinci wrote that he hated war as a "bestilissima pazzia"—that most bestial madness—and that "it is an infinitely atrocious thing to take away the life of a man"—today are heard the ranting accents of a Marinetti declaring that "war is beautiful and the sole hygiene of the world." Mussolini proclaims that "Fascism neither believes in the possibility nor the utility of perpetual peace. . . . War alone brings up to its highest tension all human energy and puts the stamp of nobility upon the peoples who have the

courage to meet it." Fascist Commandment No. 1 for every Italian child is that "a fascist must never believe in perpetual peace." Thus was educated the Duce's son, Vittorio, who described as "a beautiful sport" his bombing of innocent Ethiopian women and children from the safe heights of an airplane.

Where once Mazzini said, "I love my fatherland because I love all fatherlands," today are taught and sung hymns of hatred for other peoples. Where once Garibaldi offered his sword to fight for the freedom of the common people from tyranny, wherever they might be, today starved legions are forced to invade and enslave free peoples.

Fascism proclaims that the democracy of Mazzini and Garibaldi is a "putrefied corpse." Fascism has made it a corpse. Well might the poet of the Risorgimento, Leopardi, cry today:

*O fatherland,
I see the walls and arches,
The columns and statues,
And armed towers of our fathers;
But glory see I not,
Nor laurel, nor the sword
Of our forefathers.
Now disarmed,
Bare is your breast and bare your brow.
Alas! What wounds, what blood!
How pale I see thee, lovely lady!
I cry to heaven and earth:
Tell me, tell me,
Who brought her to so low a pass?*

The once proud child of the Renaissance and the Risorgimento, having outlived the doses of fascist castor oil and brutal clubbings, is now being injected with the most deadly poison of race hatred and anti-Semitism. In its tie-up with Hitler in the Rome-Berlin axis, Italian fascism is following

slavishly in the footsteps of all the savage policies of Hitlerism. If ever there were any illusions about a so-called "good" fascism and a "bad" fascism, those illusions may now be dispelled.

In 1915, Mussolini wrote in his newspaper, *Il Popolo d'Italia*:

"Toward the Germans, the thieves, the incendiaries, the maimers of children, the assaulters of women, who with pleasure can witness the sinking of steamships transporting innocent passengers, and who use asphyxiating gas: every act of mercy will be a crime of high treason against the fatherland and humanity. . . . All that which means ignominy, treachery and deceit is genuinely German."

In his book, *Mein Kampf*, Hitler refers to the Italian people as that "bastardized, Negroid cauldron of impurity, the Latin race."

Today this same Mussolini and this same Hitler together carry the white lily of racial purity as racial comrades!

For centuries Italy considered German militarism as its traditional enemy. The slogan of the Risorgimento was: *Bas-tone tedesco Italia non doma!*—The German club will never tame Italy! Today, not only has the Italian fascist regime allowed the "northern barbarian" to reach the Brenner Pass with the brutal annexation of Austria, thereby endangering the territorial integrity and national independence of Italy, but, in submission, it apes Hitlerism's goose-step and its racial policy. Thanks to Mussolini and his regime, Italy has now become a satellite of Hitler's Greater Germany.

* * *

On February 16, 1938, the organ of the Italian Foreign Ministry, *Informazione Diplomatica*, with perfect duplicity announced:

"The Italian government has never thought and is not now thinking of adopting political, economic or moral measures against the Jews as such, except, of course, in the case of elements hostile to the fascist regime."

Meanwhile, a group of fascist "scholars" were already preparing a report on racial policy under the direction of the Ministry of Popular Culture. At first these "scientists" remained anonymous, less out of professorial modesty, let us hope, than a feeling of profound shame for their scientific prostitution.

After a "careful study" of the race problem, on July 14, 1938, the anonymous "scholars" gave birth to their abortion. Their report consisted of ten points, the most important of which state that human races are a reality, that the conception of race is purely biological, that it is untrue that large masses of people settled in Italy in historical times, that a pure Italian race now exists, that the present Italian population is of Aryan origin and Aryan civilization, that Jews do not belong to this race, that the physical and psychological characteristics of Italians must not be altered in any way by contamination with other races; and that, therefore, Italy should adopt a racial policy elevating the Italian to an ideal of superior consciousness, because all that fascism has done in Italy has had a racial foundation—Benito Mussolini, in his speeches, having made frequent references to conceptions of race.

A famous philosopher and political economist once truly said that "nothing is so vile but that some professor will be found to defend it." The German "scholars" say that the pure Aryans are tall, blond and blue-eyed. The Italian "scholars" now say that the pure Aryans are short, dark and black-eyed. However, the Rome-Berlin axis extends to Tokyo. A group of Japanese "scholars" is carrying on a "careful study" of its own which will establish that the purest Aryans

are short, yellow-skinned and almond-eyed. All this would be farcical if it did not have tragic political implications. These theories, we are asked to believe, are not the ravings of monsters or diseased minds, but the considered utterances of respectable professors, of "scholars," of "scientists."

The Italian professors who made up or were made to sign the fascist racial report are as follows:

LINO BUSINCO, *Assistant Professor of General Pathology,*
University of Rome

LIDIO CIPRIANI, *Lecturer on Anthropology and Ethnology,*
University of Florence

ARTURO DOMAGGIO, *Director of the Neuro-psychiatric Clinic,*
University of Bologna

LEONE FRANZI, *Assistant at the Clinic of Children's Diseases,*
University of Milan

GUIDO LANDRA, *Assistant Professor of Anthropology,*
University of Rome

MARCELLO RICCI, *Assistant Professor of Zoology,*
University of Rome

NICOLA PENDE, *Professor of Endocrinology, University of Rome*

Professor Pende, one of the authors of this report, only three years ago published a study in *Nuova Antologia* backing the theory that the Italian people did *not* belong to the Aryan race, but to the Mediterranean race. No serious and honest scientist really believes in the existence of a pure Aryan race, either in Germany or elsewhere. A great Italian anthropologist, Giuseppe Sergi, long ago demonstrated the stupidity of the Aryan myth. Another Italian, Napoleone Colajanni, the sociologist, in his book *Latini e Anglosassoni*, fought against all racial theories as without scientific foundation.

What is an Aryan? Dr. Franz Boaz, one of the great scientists of our times and at present Professor of Anthropology at Columbia University, says:

"Aryan is nothing more than a linguistic term to denote that at one time there was a language now called the Aryan language, which was gradually diffused and spread over a great part of Europe and Asia, and was the origin of all the different Aryan languages spoken today. . . . In this sense an Aryan is whoever speaks an Aryan language, be he Swedish, American Negro or Indian."

* * *

For its meeting of October 6, 1938, the Fascist Grand Council had as the first point on the agenda a discussion on the racial problem. In publicizing this agenda, the following declaration was made to the press:

"The Italian race question is put forward as a question of the day also because of the integrity of our traditions and culture, an integrity which will be defended by individualizing and strengthening a Roman-Italic type on a biological basis differing from the Latin or Germanic type.

"While Germanic man finds Absolute Reality only in himself and tends to 'realize' God in his soul; while Latin man believes in a Divinity which he cannot and will not comprehend and which he passively accepts as is, in an act of faith which transcends and overwhelms him; on the other hand, the Roman-Italic man believes in God, the Creator—preexistent and omnipotent—but makes an effort to know His law and carry it into effect in the world because he is certain of God's goodness and the power of the human will whenever he interprets and actuates the true nature of man."

A more grotesque charlatanry is difficult to imagine. If the joke of a pure Aryan race is already ridiculous in Germany where innumerable races and ethnic groups have crossed each other throughout the centuries, this theory reaches the heights of buffoonery when applied to the Italian people. Just a superficial knowledge of history is sufficient to recall that

few countries have had as complicated a crossing of races as the Italian peninsula and the two islands of Sicily and Sardinia. In ancient times, even before Rome had risen as a power which unified Italy under its imperial domination, Italy was invaded and colonized by the most diverse peoples from Northern Africa, the Aegean, the Balkans and from Central and Northern Europe. This influx continued and was intensified under the Roman Empire and received an even greater impulse with the decline and decay of the Empire.

For almost three thousand years, as far back as our historic and prehistoric knowledge goes, what today is Italy was the great crossways at which met and fused almost all the known races of Europe, Northern Africa and Northwestern Asia. Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Mauretanians, Greeks, Thracians, Macedonians, Huns, Goths, Visigoths, Lombards, Franks, Normans, Scandinavians, Spanish, Saracens and Semites came in swarms to Italian soil and, either as conquerors or simple immigrants or prisoners of war, rooted themselves there, bringing their customs, their religions, and that extraordinary diversity of types and dialects which today is a characteristic of Italy.

Even today, after centuries of fusion and amalgamation, we find an obvious difference among the people of the various regions of Italy. Between a Sicilian and a Venetian, a Calabrese and a Lombard, a Sardinian and an Emilian, a Neapolitan and a Piedmontese, a Tuscan and an Abruzzese, etc., there are such differences of stature, of complexion, of language, of habits and customs, as to make them seem almost of different races.

In this cauldron in which ferments the residuum of a hundred ethnic invasions, how can one speak of a pure Italian race?

IN THEIR report, our fascist "scholars" gave as proof of Italian racial purity the fact that "the overwhelming majority of the forty-four million Italians of today are descended from families that have lived in Italy for at least a thousand years." According to their own theory then, the Italian Jews are certainly pure Italians, for if these "scholars" were not as ignorant of their history as they are of their science, they would remember that what distinguishes Italian Jewry from others is its remarkable antiquity. Jews first arrived in Rome in the second century B. C., at the time of the Maccabees. Following our scholars' theory, two thousand years of residence in Italy should make the Jews Italians of double purity.

During the last decades of the second century B. C., after the war between the Hasmonean brothers and Caesar and Pompey, the Jewish community in Rome grew very rapidly. In the time of Cicero, in the first century B. C., the Jews identified themselves with Roman politics and exerted no small influence at public meetings. (Cicero, *Pro Flacco*, Chapter LXVI.)

The Roman Jews rendered valuable assistance to Caesar in his war against Pompey, and Caesar showed his gratitude by permitting Jews to hold public devotional exercises, otherwise not allowed in the city. The number of Jews in Rome at the time of Herod was 50,000. Synagogues existed in Rome as early as the time of Augustus, as is evidenced by a law declaring their inviolability. The Jews were further favored in connection with the distribution of grain, for when the apportionment occurred on the Sabbath, their share was reserved for them until the following day.

Many Roman Jews who had become Christians received the Apostle Paul in Puteoli and Rome with due formalities. (61 A. D.) Among the prominent Jews resident in Rome in the times of the Emperors Vespasian and Titus, besides Josephus,

were the families of the De Rossi, the De Piatelli, the De Pomi and the Degli Adolescentoli, brought captive to Rome by Titus, all of whom were descendants of princely families in Jerusalem.

In the darkness of the Middle Ages, Italy produced great Jewish scholars, physicians and rabbis. Pope Boniface IX would have none but Jews as his body-physicians. During the Renaissance, the revival of learning and interest in the studies of ancient Greece and Rome stimulated the study of Biblical literature. Such men as Pico della Mirandola, the humanist, and the Cardinals Aegidius da Viterbo and Domenico Grimani devoted themselves to the study of Hebrew and Hebrew literature. They were disciples of the Italian Jewish philosopher, Elijah Delmedigo, from whom they learned the Hebrew language and under whose guidance they studied philosophy. Under the stimulus of the revival in learning during the Renaissance, Michelangelo created the superb statues of Moses and David and the grandiose paintings of the Hebrew prophets in the Sistine Chapel.

Unlike others, Italian Jewish history is not written in letters of blood. The Jewish victims of the Spanish Inquisition found sanctuary in Italy. From such a refugee was descended one of the grandparents of Irene Coen Lazatti, mother of Mayor LaGuardia of New York City.

* * *

In the struggle for Italian unity and independence during the period of the Risorgimento, Italian Jews were devoted followers of Mazzini and Garibaldi, sacrificing life and property in the memorable campaigns of 1859, 1866 and 1870.

One of the first blows against foreign tyranny for Italian freedom was struck by an Italian Jew, Daniele Manin, a disciple of Mazzini. In Venice, in March, 1848, Manin led successfully a revolt against Austrian rule. A Venetian Republic was proclaimed and Manin made president.

Two of Manin's best aides in the revolt were both Italian Jews: Admiral Graziani and Isaac Pesaro Maurogonato, the Minister of Finance. Although Manin and the Republic were defeated six months later, he gave Austria the most serious check she had as yet received from the Italians, and by so doing helped the Risorgimento on its way. The conduct of the Venetian people during the siege was so glorious, and the record of their leader so heroic, that Manin became a legendary figure in Italian history. A grateful Italy gave him a final resting place in the outer wall of San Marco, under St. Mark's lion that he had served so well.

Cavour, the first prime minister of an independent Italy and the brains behind the Risorgimento, had as secretary and faithful friend an Italian Jew, Isaac Artom.

Mazzini, heart of the Risorgimento, had as friend and counselor L'Olper, an Italian Jewish rabbi and one of the most courageous advocates of Italian independence. When at last, old and weary, Mazzini was allowed to return from exile to Italy—now united and independent, not under a republic, but under a monarchical rule of which he disapproved—he nevertheless had to live and die, almost hidden, under an assumed name. His death, although in his fatherland, was that of a refugee. His refuge was the house of an Italian Jewish family, the Rosselli family, which had contributed to the Mazzinian and Garibaldian movement for a united Italy. The two grandsons of this Rosselli, Carlo and Nello, were ambushed and murdered by agents of the Italian fascist O.V.R.A. on June 10, 1937, at Bagnoles in France.

The names of Jewish soldiers who died in the cause of Italian freedom were placed along with those of their Christian fellow soldiers on the monuments erected in their honor.

* * *

Many statesmen of Jewish origin contributed to the building of the Italian nation. General Giuseppe Ottolenghi was

Minister of War in 1902, and was tutor to the royal family. Luigi Luzzatti was prime minister for the fifth time in 1903. Ernesto Nathan was one of Rome's finest mayors. The governmental continuity of Italy during the World War was represented by Sidney Sonnino as Minister of Foreign Affairs. A diehard Conservative and an extreme Italian nationalist, he was in close, intimate relations with the Court.

Other famous Italians of Jewish origin are Cesare Lombroso, noted for his studies in criminology; Guglielmo Ferrero, the historian, now an exile in Paris; Franchetti, the explorer; Modigliani, the modern painter; and the writers D'Ambra and Da Verona. Hundreds of eminent scientists, writers and politicians now living in Italy are of Jewish origin that dates back, in many cases, to the time of the Caesars.

* * *

Completely fused with the rest of the population, no one has ever questioned the ancestry of Italian Jews. The Italian Jew is as Italian as any other element of the population. Italy has been the classical land of Jewish assimilation, intermarriage taking place on a large scale, more Jews marrying outside their community than inside. The Italian Jew speaks Italian, never having spoken Yiddish; he looks like any other Italian; he thinks as an Italian.

Do not two thousand years of residence constitute a right to citizenship? Flying in the face of established facts, our "scholars" answer: "Jews for thousands of years have considered themselves . . . in Italy a separate and superior race."

Mussolini himself in a conversation with Emil Ludwig in 1932 declared:

"There are no longer any pure races, *not even Jewish*, for it is precisely by successful interbreeding that the great strength and beauty of a nation are developed. . . . I shall never believe it possible to prove biologically that a race is more or less pure. . . . Race is a sentiment, not a reality."

In 1932, Mussolini, on examining Italian statistics on mixed marriages, said:

"These results are a demonstration and a justification of the non-existence of an anti-Semitic movement in Italy. The frequency of mixed marriages ought to be greeted by all those who wish to be sincere Italians. For herein is contained the most perfect proof of the civil and moral equality of Italians whatever may have been their distant origin."

Were these the "frequent references to conceptions of race" by Mussolini that our professors had in mind as strengthening their theory? Commandment No. 8 of the Fascist Decalogue is: *Mussolini is always right*. Is Mussolini right now, or was he right in 1932? Our "scholars" might give this contradiction their "careful study."

Before the days of the Rome-Berlin axis, the most ribald ridicule of the Aryan idea to be heard in all Europe was heard in Italy. Mussolini was chief among the scoffers. On more than one occasion he remarked to Mrs. Anne O'Hare McCormick, special correspondent of *The New York Times*, that to a Latin the idea of a pure race was pure childishness.

The Italian people have always been brought up in the tradition of tolerance and fairness toward the Jews. What could be more bestial than to foment an artificial anti-Semitism in a country where the Jews hardly number 47,000 in a nation of forty-four million, comprising only one-tenth of one per cent of the population, one Jew for every one thousand Christians? Seventy-five per cent of these Italian Jews are concentrated in Rome, Milan, Trieste, Florence and Turin. Thirty-one provinces contain less than fifty Jews each. Five provinces contain no Jews at all. Sicily has 216 Jews and the Island of Sardinia exactly fourteen.

Arnaldo Cortesi, the pro-fascist correspondent of *The New York Times*, on July 30, 1938, wrote:

"The most surprised people in the world were the Italians when a report drafted by several anonymous but allegedly eminent fascist university professors warned them last week that all sorts of grave though unspecified dangers threatened them owing to the presence in their midst of an almost imperceptibly small Jewish minority.

"The Italians, who have never felt any animosity toward Jews and who in the past have looked with puzzled wonder on the Jew-baiting going on in Germany since Nazism rose to power, have not yet ceased asking what it is all about."

Despite the unleashing of a tremendous press campaign to arouse enthusiasm for the new racial policy, the Italian people refuse to respond to the poison of anti-Semitism. An example of their attitude is the dispatch of the correspondent of *The New York Times* on September 19, 1938, who, reporting Mussolini's speech at Trieste, cabled:

"It was noticeable that what he said about the Jews was not as well received by the crowd as the rest of his speech. When he said world Hebrewism had always been the enemy of fascism the cheers were very slow in getting started and petered out after an attempt by part of the crowd to create a semblance of enthusiasm."

* * *

The fascists insist that racial discrimination does not mean persecution. Mussolini, in his speech at Trieste, declared:

"Jews of Italian citizenship who have unquestioned military or civil merit in the eyes of Italy and the regime will find justice and comprehension. As to others, a policy of separation will be followed.

"In the end the world perhaps will be more astounded by our generosity than by our rigor, at least unless Semites beyond the frontier and in our country and, above all, their unexpected friends

who defend them from too many chairs of learning, compel us to change radically our course."

Let us see this generosity, justice and comprehension in practice. Writes Arnaldo Cortesi in his dispatch of August 1, 1938, to *The New York Times*:

"Achille Starace, secretary general of the Fascist Party, had no compunction in stating, indeed, that the fascist regime, in dealing with the race problem, had followed the usual fascist procedure of acting first and devising afterward doctrinal justification for its actions. So saying, he virtually admitted that the first measures against Jews were already in force.

"It had been known for some time, in fact, that all Jews were gradually being removed from posts of prominence and responsibility. It was being done without fuss or publicity. Jews were neither dismissed nor asked to resign. Left undisturbed until the expiration of their terms of office, they were then quietly replaced by 'Aryans.' No question of allegiance to the Fascist regime was involved in this gradual weeding out, since all Italian office holders must perforce be Fascists.

"This unobtrusive elimination of Jews from all posts of command had proceeded so far by the time the racist report was published that very few 'non-Aryans' were left in positions of great responsibility and even they were rapidly decreasing in numbers."

This process of elimination began as far back as February 11, 1938, when Gino Olivetti "resigned" as president of the Italian Cotton Institute and vice-president of the Textile Guild "for personal reasons." Signor Olivetti, an Italian Jew, and one of Italy's leading industrialists, certainly deserved that promised Mussolinian generosity for civil merit, having been a staunch supporter of the fascist regime.

On July 30, 1939, *La Tribuna*, a newspaper published in Rome, stated that racism should not be confused with anti-Semitism. "Anti-Semitism," it added, "is a reactionary or con-

servative policy for the application of which the ordinary administrative means at a state's disposal are sufficient." Signor Olivetti certainly was eliminated by "ordinary administrative means at a state's disposal." Any fool must conclude, therefore, that such elimination is anti-Semitism in practice.

La Tribuna, of course, denies this, although the very procedure it outlined as denoting a policy of anti-Semitism was used with Signor Olivetti. This same procedure was followed in the cases of other prominent Italian Jews. Eduardo Morpurgo was dismissed as president of one of the biggest insurance companies, *Assicurazione Generale di Venezia*, and replaced by the former fascist Finance Minister, Count Volpi, one of Italy's big financiers. Arnaldo Frigessi de Rattalma was dismissed as president of *Riunione Adriatica di Sicurtà*, another of Italy's largest insurance companies, and replaced by Fulvio Suvich, the Italian Ambassador to the United States. Senator Alberto Pirelli was appointed vice-president. Pirelli, a former president of the International Chamber of Commerce and president of the Fascist Confederation of Industry, is the richest man in Italy and director of twelve of the largest corporations in Italy. Together with other Italian industrialists he financed Mussolini's road to power. Mussolini, now their puppet, repays them generously for their services by giving them free access to Italy's wealth. Finding himself under dire financial stress, Mussolini is copying from his ally, Hitler, the gentle art of waging a shameless war of robbery under the cloak of anti-Semitism, describing firms as Jewish as an excuse for handing them over from their former owners to the fascist ringleaders.

"Nobody dreams of doing Jews any harm," said the newspaper *La Tribuna* on July 30, 1938. On September 10 a decree was promulgated establishing separate schools for the exclusive use of Jewish children. They were even promised the same examinations as Italian children "with appropriate adaptations." *Il Messaggero* of Rome, commenting on the decree,

stated that "the fascist state does not, in fact, intend to condemn anyone to ignorance," adding that "the establishment of schools exclusively for Jews has always been a secret aspiration of the Jews: their separating from the rest of the people because of a pretended pride in their superiority. The desire for such physical and moral separation is equally shared by us."

This same newspaper deplores "those anti-fascists who pretend feelings of pity for the children of Jews" and brazenly declares that this policy of segregation and ghettoism will find real favor with all Jewish communities in Italy and abroad.

In reporting this decree in *Corriere d'America*, published by Generoso Pope in New York City, a headline ironically declares: *The Provision Demonstrates That the Government Excludes Any Program of Persecution.*

The Italian newspaper *Il Tevere* has published the names of 174 professors affected by the decree excluding Jews from the universities. Among the names one notes such eminent men as Giorgio Del Vecchio, professor of law and the first fascist rector of the University of Rome; Gino Arias, professor of political corporative economy at the University of Rome and until recently a regular contributing writer for Mussolini's *Il Popolo d'Italia*, and the official organ of the fascist hierarchy, *Gerarchia*; and Professor Eugenio Morelli, specialist in respiratory diseases and head of the Crusade Against Tuberculosis. The rest of the list of professors contains some of the most important figures in Italian culture.

When signing the decree excluding Jewish professors and students from Italian educational institutions, one wonders if the hand of the Minister of National Education, Giuseppe Bottai, did not tremble, remembering that his mother was a Jew. Will he be made an "Honorary Aryan" because of his long and faithful service to fascism, or will he follow the nineteen functionaries dismissed from the Ministry of the Interior? Will he have the courage to resign his office in protest as did

Miralaldo Ascoli, Jewish commander of the naval forces in the Aegean Sea, and Admiral Paolo Moroni, also a Jew, commander of the 4th Division at Mallorca?

What will happen to the five Italian generals on the general staff of the Italian army who are of Jewish descent? What will happen to the twenty-five senators of Jewish descent? Will the "courageous" General Rodolfo Graziani, who murdered the defenseless Ethiopian people, have the courage to protest against the persecution of his fellow Jews? Will the only woman of any "importance" in the fascist movement, Margherita Sarfatti, also a Jew, be affected by the racial policy? Or will this intimate biographer of Mussolini and his alleged mistress be made an "Honorary Aryan"?

On November 7, 1938, the fascist government issued a decree declaring all Jews ineligible for membership in the Fascist Party. Strongest hit by this decree are the Italian Jewish fascists, that pathetic, spineless and reactionary group who capitulated to the enemy. Together with the rest of the Jews, they will henceforth be considered outcasts, without positions, jobs or civil rights. Ironically enough, it was this same cowardly group which, in 1937, in an editorial in *Nostra Bandiera*, organ of Jewish fascists, suggested that all Zionists be dismissed from government positions and replaced by loyal Jewish fascists.

Mussolini once wrote that "Anti-Semitism is a product of barbarism." For once we agree with him. One of the aspects of this fascist barbarism is the attack on culture. On July 2, 1938, the fascist government issued a decree forbidding publishers to print translations of foreign books by Jewish authors. Another decree on October 6 banned textbooks by 114 Italian-Jewish authors from Italian schools. The anti-Semitic newspaper, *Il Tevere*, editorially exhorted the Italian government to suppress also those books by authors of the Aryan race which are "imbued with Jewish mentality." This will prevent even safely fascist writers like Ugo Ojetti from expressing any

admiration for Jews. Ojetti's book, *Cose Viste*, describes Albert Einstein, the scientist now exiled from Nazi Germany, when Einstein lectured in Bologna in 1921:

"There was Einstein, a plump, alert and smiling Jew, who was speaking to us more or less about paradise, at least about the place where Dante imagined it to be: in the sky and among the stars . . . his beautiful, pale, Semitic face. . . . But what wins the heart is his childlike expression: he is a great, serene and well-mannered child, happy to play, as he does, with ideas, with words and with infinity. . . ."

This decree will make necessary a new edition of the just completed *Enciclopedia Italiana*, if only because of the following passage concerning the British Imperial Fascist League:

"Because of their anti-Semitic tendencies and, similarly, because of their admiration for Adolph Hitler, of whom they are more faithful imitators than they are of Benito Mussolini, they cannot, despite their name, consider themselves the most genuine representatives of the ideas of Fascism in England."

Already there is a ban on American films with Jewish actors. The Italian people are no longer permitted to laugh at the antics of Charlie Chaplin, the Marx Brothers or the Ritz Brothers. The fascist authorities have decreed that these comedians are not funny. Even that innocent film, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, which has delighted children all over the world, has been banned as being harmful to the imperialist education of Italian children under fascism. It was not explained whether Snow White and the seven dwarfs were "members of the Aryan race imbued with Jewish mentality."

* * *

If we are to learn anything from the experience of the

persecution of the Jews in Germany, we know that what is happening in Italy today is just a mere beginning. Jews have been dismissed from all positions of importance in the government, the armed forces, the schools, business firms and the Fascist Party. This last will mean a real hardship because of the impossibility of getting employment in Italy unless one is a member of the Fascist Party.

In an article signed by Professor Pasquale Pennisi, in the newspaper *Il Regime Fascista*, published at Cremona by Roberto Farinacci, a fascist leader of the "first hour," it was suggested that marriage between Italian Christians and Italian Jews be forbidden and "illicit" relations between them severely punished. This suggestion has now been made official law.

On October 15, 1938, a decree forbade the issuance to any Jews of licenses for opening retail businesses or public establishments. A few days later all Jewish stockbrokers were dismissed from the Rome Exchange and their representatives who are Jews forbidden to attend to trading. Firm after firm is practically seized from Italian Jews and given over to fascist "Aryan" ringleaders. The most sweeping decree is that of November 10 which prohibits all Jews from owning or managing industries connected with national defense, and debars them from owning land valued at more than 5,000 lire (\$250) or houses the taxable value of which exceeds 20,000 lire (\$1,000).

"The world perhaps will be more astounded by our generosity than by our rigor," said Mussolini about his treatment of the Italian Jews. As evidence of this generosity the fascist government proposes that all Jews leave Italy and establish themselves in Ethiopia where they may take with them private capital, machinery, tools and household goods. The fascist press considers this a real providence, not only for Italian Jews, but also Jews from other countries, suggesting that they will have in Ethiopia the opportunity for industrial and com-

mercial development . . . in the interests of Italian imperialism, naturally.

"This is another proof," continues the Italian press, "of the just, humane and practical deliberation of the Fascist government. Jews in general, particularly Zionist Jews, have much to gain by this noble Italian initiative. It is better than Palestine with its guerrilla warfare with the Arabs which will never end, and the continual risk of one's life."

Those very Jews whose presence in Italy is supposed in some mysterious fashion to be sapping the traditional virtues of the Italian people are now offered this new "Zionist" haven where the Jews may build industrial pyramids for the fascist Pharaoh. Thus the fascists admit the failure of the Italian colonization of Ethiopia where the passive and even armed resistance of the population, determined to gain their independence, has not ceased. The number of Italian workers in Ethiopia declined from 115,000 in March, 1937, to 41,000 in January, 1938, and to 27,000 in May. The fascist regime attempts in vain to conceal this failure by announcing fresh colonization of Libya! The paradise refused by the Italian people is now offered to the Jews as a "noble Italian initiative."

This ruthless policy of anti-Semitism, we are asked to believe, is not *persecution*. Evidently, the fascist barbarians consider anything short of the physical extermination of the Jews as a manifestation of their mildness and their "justice, comprehension and generosity."

The worst is yet to come. The first issue of the new anti-Semitic magazine, *Difesa della Razza* (Defense of Race), has already made its appearance under the editorship of Telesio Interlandi, chief editor of the anti-Semitic newspaper, *Il Tevere*. The crude and completely discredited forgery, the so-called *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, is being rehashed. *Difesa della Razza* bids fair to become a worthy competitor of the Nazi Julius Streicher's *Der Stuermer*.

III

THE experience of Germany teaches us that after the Jews, the next in line for persecution are the Protestants, and then the Catholics, for fascism is the enemy of all religion. In Hitler Germany the youth are taught not only to hate Jews but also Christians. The *Official Guide for the Education of the Hitler Youth*, among its fifty points, contains the following:

1. Christianity is a religion for slaves and fools.
2. Christianity and Communism are identical.
3. Christianity does not differentiate between white people and Negroes.
4. The New Testament is a Jewish lie by four evangelists.
5. The church is international.
16. There is no Christian culture.
18. Christianity has spoiled the German people, because it has taught them ideas such as adultery and theft, which they had never known.
20. Christianity is only a substitute and cover for Judaism, and was invented by Jews in Rome.
21. Jesus Christ was a Jew.
24. How did Christ die? Whining on the cross. How did Planetta die? Shouting "Heil Hitler!" (Planetta was the murderer of Chancellor Dollfuss.)
26. The Ten Commandments are a manifestation of the lowest instincts of humanity.
45. The new Eternal City is Nuremberg. Rome is doomed.

This spirit of race hatred and religious intolerance is now being fostered by German Nazi agents in Italy. The Roman Catholic Church has been quick to see that the persecution of the Jewish people is a menace also to Catholics. The Church has seen Catholics in Germany persecuted almost as ruth-

lessly as the Jews. The same brutal mobs which, instigated by the Nazi government itself, razed Jewish synagogues and shops and homes to the ground, also attacked the palace of Cardinal Innitzer in Vienna, injuring the Cardinal severely while he was praying. A priest who tried to defend him was thrown out of a second-story window, dying as a result of injuries. Crucifixes and religious objects were burned in the public square. The Cardinal is still held a prisoner in his palace.

On November 11, 1938, as a result of an incendiary speech made by the German Minister of the Interior, Adolf Wagner, the palace of Cardinal von Faulhaber in Munich was attacked and church property destroyed. The next day, a religious procession was attacked, holy candles and flowers trampled, the Virgin Mary mocked, and the people forced to disperse, while the police looked on without interfering with the Nazi disturbers.

Pope Pius XI, because of Hitler's persecution of Jews, Protestants and Catholics, has rightly called him the "modern Nero." It was logical that the Pope should see the dangers of anti-Semitism in Italy. He declared, addressing a group of Belgian pilgrims, that "it is impossible for Christians to share in anti-Semitic views. We recognize everybody's right to defend his legitimate interests when they are threatened, but anti-Semitism is inadmissible. *We are spiritually Semites.*"

The official organ of the Vatican, *Osservatore Romano*, warned: "The Catholic Church will defend persecuted Jews wherever they may be." Condemning the Italian fascist racial policy, the Pope on July 16, 1938, referred to the:

"... great question at present agitating the world under the name of nationalism, a nationalism in many ways exaggerated, an ill-conceived nationalism which we have already had painful occasion to denounce as erroneous and dangerous.

"It is a matter by now of a true form of apostasy. It is no

longer a matter of this or that erroneous idea; it is the whole spirit of the doctrine that is contrary to the faith of Christ."

Again on July 21, Pope Pius declared that the fascist racial theory was contrary to Catholic credo because in the words: "I believe in the Catholic faith," *Catholic* means universal, not racist, nor nationalistic, nor separatistic.

"The spirit of faith," concluded the Pope, "must fight against the spirit of separatism and against the spirit of exaggerated nationalism, which are detestable and which, just because they are not Christian, end by not being even human."

Yet again on July 28, the Pope said:

"Things must be correctly interpreted and kept in their proper places. Among such things are the exceptions of race, of stock, of nation, of nationality. It is forgotten that humankind, the whole of humankind, is a single, great, universal human race. All men are, above all, members of the same great kind. They all belong to the single great family of the living. Humankind is therefore a single, universal . . . race."

In retaliation, the Fascist Party threatened to declare membership in the Catholic Action associations incompatible with membership in the Fascist Party. Thus Catholics were threatened with the same treatment as the Jews, exclusion from membership in the Fascist Party being tantamount to exclusion from opportunities of finding employment. Sensing this danger to the livelihood of Catholics, the Pope counter-attacked vigorously. "Beware," he dramatically addressed the fascist authorities, "I advise you not to strike at Catholic Action associations. I advise you and beseech you not to do so for your own good because whoever strikes at the Catholic Action associations strikes at the Pope and whoever strikes at the Pope

dies," this last phrase being an allusion to a medieval saying when the Papacy was in conflict with the Holy Roman Empire, "qui mange au Pape en meurt."

The Pope concluded. "We have to ask ourselves why Italy should have had to go and copy Germany with such unfortunate imitativeness."

The fascist press, as was to be expected, did not publish the Vatican criticism; but the Pope's words reached vast numbers of Italian Catholics, making a deep impression. A number of Catholic parish papers which voiced criticism of anti-Semitism were seized.

In his Trieste speech on September 18, Mussolini, smarting under the taunt flung at him by the Pope, who had charged him with imitation of Hitler, retaliated: "Those who try to make it believed that we have obeyed or imitated . . . are poor halfwits to whom we accord our contempt and our pity." Thus fascism, which has always boasted of its love for the Catholic Church in order to win prestige abroad, now lets down its mask and calls the head of that church a "poor half-wit to whom we accord our contempt and our pity."

According to the Vatican City newspaper, *Osservatore Romano*, Pope Pius personally addressed letters to King Victor Emmanuel and Mussolini, protesting against the decree forbidding marriage between Italian "Aryans" and "non-Aryans," begging them not to permit such a violation of the concordat between the Vatican and Italy. The Pope's appeals not only failed but also received no reply.

The Pope once called Mussolini "a man of Providence." Today, in gratitude, the ultra-fascist newspaper, *Il Regime Fascista*, accuses the Pope of being in league "with atheists, communists, free-masons, Protestants, democrats and Jews."

* * *

This growing conflict between the Vatican and Mussolini

is in itself a reflection of the ever-widening discontent of the Italian people with the policies of fascism. For while the official fostering of anti-Semitism in Italy indicates Mussolini's growing dependence on, and submission to, his partner in Berlin, it also coincides with the growing discontent of the Italian people. Fascism's ruinous war against the Ethiopian people, its gigantic expenditures for the invasion of the Spanish Republic, the present food crisis, the international situation resulting from its alliance with Hitler, have caused widespread grumbling. The people are tired of the promise of cake tomorrow while the bread of today is denied them. Mussolini hears the roaring of the tempest around him which will engulf him and his regime. He seeks to divert their discontent. He has exhausted all the excuses possible for his failure to bring prosperity and peace to the Italian people: first it was bolshevism, then it was Wall Street, next it was England, then it was the need to conquer Ethiopia. Now, in desperation, he grasps at the last straw—anti-Semitism.

It is an attempt to divide the forces of growing resistance against him and his regime. It is an attempt to develop a spirit of hatred for other peoples as a necessary preparation for war; for fascism, in its desperation, sees war as the only way out of its difficulties. Because Mussolini knows that the Italian people abhor war and desire peace, he needs to whip them into a frenzy of race hatred and race superiority in order to push them toward the abyss of a world conflagration.

IV

THE Italians in America are truly anxious about the anti-Semitic racial policy of Italian fascism. They consider such a policy a national shame, with disastrous consequences not only for the Jews in Italy, but also with possible grave repercussions here in America. Mussolini's agents are already attempting to influence the Italian people in democratic America

to line up with Hitler's Nazi agents to undermine democracy. The Italian people in America are being incited against their fellow Jewish-Americans.

Early in the anti-Semitic campaign, obeying the orders of the Italian government, the Italian newspapers owned by an *American citizen*, Generoso Pope, Mussolini's Tammany stooge, began to lay the groundwork. On July 24, 1938, his newspapers approved the fascist racial policy, published without comment or contradiction a statement from the fascist press in Italy that, "The Aryan (Italian) race is heroic and chivalric, while the Jews are vile and mercantile."

Another fascist sheet published in New York, *Il Grido Della Stirpe* (Cry of the Race), has been propagating the vilest insults against democracy and against the Jews. Its editor, Domenico Trombetta, has been conducting a violent campaign over radio station WHOM, calculated to foment race hatred between Italians and Jews in America. The Federal Communications Commission received so many letters of protest from Italian listeners that it refused to renew the regular license of station WHOM, granting it a temporary license, renewable after ninety days provided it has by that time eliminated its anti-democratic and anti-Semitic propaganda.

The protests of the Italian listeners of station WHOM demonstrate that the Italians in America do not approve of the activities of the enemies of democracy. The indignation of Italian-Americans against Mussolini's barbarous anti-Semitic campaign is nationwide. It comes from all sections of the Italian people, from all who honor and glory in the democratic traditions of the Italian people both in Italy and America.

Luigi Antonini, State Chairman of the American Labor Party and General Secretary of the Italian Dressmakers Union, Local 89, of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, speaking before several thousand Italian dress-makers at the Center Hotel, appealed to all Italian-Americans to dissociate themselves from anti-Semitic propaganda:

"Let those who seek to spread anti-Semitism or other forms of racial discrimination in this country remember that once racial discord is rampant, none will escape. Let my countrymen remember that the venom of racial intolerance can be turned just as easily against Italian and German as against Jew."

Frank Seri, president of the Taxpayers and Merchants National Alliance, urged the Italian-Americans at a Columbus Day celebration in 1938 at Public School 29, Brooklyn, following their three-mile parade, to protest through the Italian Ambassador in Washington against the program of persecution against Jews in Italy.

"Anti-Semitism is Hitlerism at its blackest," he warned, and called upon all Italians to let Mussolini know "that millions of Americans of Italian extraction who love Italy and its great people are shocked at the anti-Jewish program and that they regard it as ignoble and deeply un-Italian."

On October 23, 1938, at Hartford, Connecticut, a resolution addressed to Mussolini protesting his anti-Semitic policy was drafted by a committee representing the majority of Italian-American organizations in Connecticut. Former Alderman Rocco Pallotti, a former president of the Connecticut Federation of Italian-American clubs, who presided at this meeting, branded Mussolini's anti-Jewish campaign as:

"... a policy which has been forced upon the people of Italy. It is one that they have been forced to accept. I cannot and will not believe that they are in sympathy with it. Hitler began with anti-Semitism, and now observe how he is persecuting the Catholics in Germany and Austria. Once anti-Semitism has begun, no one can say where it will lead."

Mr. Pallotti recalled the cruel persecution of Italians in the past as a reminder that the Italian people "should well be able to understand what such discrimination means."

Another prominent Italian-American, Dr. Bella Visono Dodd, teacher of Government at Hunter College, member of the New York Bar and legislative representative of the Teachers Union, stated:

"I sincerely hope that no one who is a member of our Italian-American community will fall victim to this new theory of racial hatred announced by the government of the country in which they or their parents were born. . . . Any attack upon religious freedom is an attack upon all religions. As a firm believer in American democracy, I would like to add my voice to the growing chorus of protests against the barbarous acts of anti-Semitism that are prevalent in many European countries. These countries are trying to solve their economic troubles by using the Jew as scapegoat. This will fail as it has failed in the past."

The Lieutenant-Governor of New York State, Charles Poletti, at a meeting of 1,000 delegates of the Bronx American Labor Party in Morris High School, bitterly assailed the anti-Semitism of the fascist government. He added:

"Coming to this group, I have to think how lucky we are to be in America. I heard the names of the committees read here—Jews, Italians and others. Here we can all come together in perfect understanding and with a feeling of mutual respect and admiration."

In similar vein was a statement to the press on October 10, 1938, by Phillip Bongiorno, World War veteran decorated by the Italian government while serving as captain in the American Air Service, and former head of the American Order of Sons of Italy, largest Italian fraternal society in America. His statement, in part, said:

"Italians as well as Americans of Italian extraction in America are overwhelmingly not in sympathy with the anti-Semitic movement and measures in Italy and are thoroughly ashamed of them."

"The whole detestable thing is a puzzle to them. . . . Italians have always been rightfully proud of their freedom from racial or religious prejudices and they have never stooped so low as to make a distinction between Italians of the Jewish faith and those of other faiths.

"Take, for instance, the relationship between Italians and Jews in America. I do not believe a closer or friendlier relationship exists anywhere between any other two groups. A good example of what I mean is the touching friendship between Governor Lehman and Justice Charles Poletti and the marriage of Justice Pecora and Mrs. Pecora."

Noting the growing disapproval of anti-Semitism on the part of the Italian people, the pro-fascist officials of the Sons of Italy began to change their tune. The fascist Mr. Stefano Miele of New York, National Supreme Venerable of the Order of Sons of Italy, speaking before the delegates of the twenty-sixth annual Massachusetts State Convention of the Order, said:

"We disbelieve in racial prejudice and racial priority rights. We are guiding ourselves under the Constitution of the United States and the Declaration of Independence which holds the truths that we are all children of the same God. We fervently desire to live and work, side by side with men and women of all races in peace and friendship and spirit of brotherhood."

Last but not least, Mussolini's Tammany stooge, Generoso Pope, seeing himself embarrassed, in the position of defending a policy repugnant and detestable to the Italians in America, decided to cover his embarrassment and past misdeeds in the service of fascism by joining the chorus of protests. His newspapers began to eliminate the more obnoxious aspects of the anti-Jewish drive. Urgent protests from the readers of his newspapers at last forced him to publish front

page editorials signed by himself. On August 29, 1938, he wrote:

"It would be deplorable if we had divisions and strife between Jews and Italians in America, where the children of both races have always lived together with the best of personal relationships, working together and building everywhere common enterprises, which it would be very painful to break and send to ruin."

How much this change in his attitude is due to his "humanitarianism" and how much is due to fear of a boycott by his Jewish business contacts will never be known. Was it a little hint from his Jewish business associates that made him jittery on September 11? Was the glory of fascism less dear to him than the possible effects on his pocketbook for espousing an unpopular cause? On that day he wrote:

"A race struggle in the United States would be a grave offense against the Constitution and the traditions of this Republic. . . . Let us keep our nerves, then. No impulsive, hysterical and dangerous movements. One knows how they begin, but not how they end up.

"Fortunately, these fights can be avoided in America by using a minimum of good sense and prudence. Let us keep firm, therefore, to the tradition of friendly personal relations and useful collaboration in business affairs. Thus shall we—Italians and Jews—be an example to other national groups who watch us with interest in this delicate moment.

"From the many letters I have received I can state with satisfaction that the Italians of America sincerely share my opinion and cordially adhere to my appeal."

If the Italians are respected today and have a surer sense of "belonging" to America, it is not due in any shape or form to Mussolini, but to the participation of Italian workers in labor struggles, together with other Americans, to better

their economic condition; their participation in progressive political movements like the American Labor Party; and it is due also to the new generation of native-born Americans of Italian descent who carry on the democratic traditions of Mazzini and Garibaldi as well as the traditions of their American forefathers, Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln.

What would an American fascist racial policy against Italians mean in a city like New York? It would mean that over \$200,000,000 worth of real estate owned by Italians would be confiscated and given over to American "Ayrans" and the Italian heads of business enterprises replaced by 100 per cent Americans.

It would mean throwing out of their jobs 1,200 doctors of Italian descent, 1,000 lawyers, hundreds of dentists, and a great many musicians, writers, artists and small businessmen. It would mean the dismissal of 1,200 teachers from public schools, high schools and colleges, the exclusion of 300,000 Italian children from the regular school system and the establishment of separate schools for them, where they may have the same examinations "with appropriate adaptations."

Ten thousand Italians in American universities would be denied the right to continue with their studies and told that what was good for their immigrant parents should be good enough for them.

Mayor LaGuardia, Lieutenant Governor Poletti and Justices Cotillo and Pecora would be debarred from holding public office.

Dr. Alberto Bonaschi would be dismissed as a member of the Board of Education. And Mr. Generoso Pope himself would be deprived of his newspapers and replaced as president of the Colonial Sand and Stone Company. The 200 per cent American "Aryans" would like nothing better than to put them all on a boat and then send them "back where you came from," thus saving America from contamination with "other races" and returning all the jobs back to the

"pure Americans" who had been robbed of them by "the unfair competition and cheap labor of those damn foreigners."

Fantastic, isn't it, that under an American brand of fascism, what is happening to the Jews in Italy today might also happen to Italians? Not so fantastic! No longer ago than October 31, 1938, and no farther away than Oyster Bay, L. I., 400 Italian, Negro and Polish students of the Oyster Bay High School went on strike to protest against the slanderous statement of a wealthy resident at a taxpayers' meeting that the high school was "too good for niggers, wops and pollacks." The parents of the striking children joined them in front of the school. They successfully defeated the attempts of the police force to dislodge them from the school grounds. It is a credit to the Italian children in this strike that they were its most militant leaders. In the name of the strikers, the head of the strike committee, John Napoli, demanded an apology and presented to the principal of the school the following statement:

"This strike was called in protest to remarks printed in a local paper and made by an unnamed person against the pupils of Negro, Polish and Italian descent. We, the children of these different groups, feel that this school system is not too good for us and we as a group bitterly resent these insults made by such individuals. It is further the sentiment of this committee that we attempt in every way possible to find out who these individuals are and require of them a public apology for such an un-American sentiment." (*New York Times*, Nov. 1, 1938.)

Mary Napoli, sister of the Italian student strike leader, said:

"This time we won't stop until it's all over. Last year one of those fancy ladies said that her dogs were better than we were and we just swallowed the insult, but this year it's going to

be different. If you let them step on you once, it'll happen all the time."

The father of these two militant Italian children declared:

"We Italians helped build this town. We were here from the start, way back, hundreds of years. We worked as fishermen and farmers and now they tell us we are the foreigners. Our people have fought in the wars and lived through all the disasters and we belong here as much as they."

Under an American brand of fascism the whole Napoli family would be shipped to the concentration camps of Alaska as dangerous Reds. Were the Jewish children in Italy today to protest against the fascist authorities as these Italian children did here in America, what would be their fate?

It is obvious that in their own self-interest the Italians in America cannot but reject fascism whether of the Italian or American brand, and choose, instead, democracy. By fighting in its defense together with Jews, Negroes, and with all progressive and democratic forces, they will prevent democracy's ever becoming "a putrefied corpse." By fighting racial discrimination as these school children did, the Italians in America will strengthen one of the bulwarks of democracy. By opposing all fascist organizations and individuals who foment racial hatred and preach anti-democratic ideologies, the Italians in America will be fighting discrimination against themselves.

Such fascist organizations as the Ku Klux Klan, the Black Legion and the Silver Shirts are a future threat to every Italian in America, for these organizations are not only anti-Semitic and anti-Negro, but also anti-Catholic and anti-foreign born.

It is common knowledge and reported in the American press that Roy Zachary, leader of the Silver Shirts, at a num-

ber of fascist meetings, publicly called for the assassination of President Roosevelt. These fascists hate Roosevelt because his New Deal social legislation helps to protect the civil liberties of the underprivileged and to improve conditions of that "one-third of a nation which is ill-fed, ill-clothed, ill-housed." Yet Italian fascist agents, working in close touch with the Italian consulates, are in intimate contact with these various fascist organizations.

Let us not overlook the fascist priest, Father Coughlin, whose unctuously hypocritical voice over the radio spreads anti-democratic and anti-Semitic hatred, calling for "bullets, not ballots." What more proof is needed that this Judas, accepting the thirty pieces of silver of the big American industrialists, betrays the spirit of the humble Carpenter of Nazareth? What more proof is needed of Father Coughlin's anti-Catholicism when he defends Mussolini's persecution of the Jews in his paper, *Social Justice*, thus placing himself in opposition to the utterances of the Pope on racial theory? What further proof is needed to conclude that Father Coughlin, a Catholic priest, looks not to the Holy Father in St. Peter's for guidance, but to the Anti-Christ in Palazzo Venezia?

* * *

What would happen in the shops, the offices, the schools, the streets and neighborhoods where Jews and Italians work and live together should the deadly poison of anti-Semitism take root among Italian-Americans? It would be dangerous not only for Jews but for Italians as well. Once racial discrimination begins to spread there is no guarantee that it will not also effect the Italian people. The attack upon the Jews cannot be considered as an attack merely upon a single race or religion. It is reaction's weapon intended to divide and destroy the democracy and peace of *all* the American people.

Anti-Semitism in any shape or form imperils liberty and freedom for the whole nation.

It is, therefore, necessary that the Italians in America, of all shades of opinion, but united in their love for democracy, continue to fraternize with the Jewish people whom they have always admired and respected, and join together with them to mobilize public opinion in the fight against anti-Semitism and all other types of racial discrimination, struggling all the harder with the rest of progressive America against fascism, the breeder of anti-Semitism, the enemy of democracy and the instigator of war.

The Italians in America are proud that Italy has a Toscanini who is showing the progressive elements of mankind how near he is to them in spirit. The fascists remind him that they slapped his face seven years ago in Bologna for refusing to play the fascist hymn, *Giovinezza*, and that he has come down "from his artistic heaven and makes himself an accuser of Nazi Germany and self-appointed friend of Jews." Italians are proud of their Toscanini who refused to conduct an orchestra in Germany after Hitler came to power, or in Salzburg when Hitler seized Austria, but chose instead to go to Palestine at the head of an orchestra of exiled and refugee German and Jewish musicians, as an eloquent statement of his hatred for fascism.

The Italians in New York City are proud of their Mayor LaGuardia who has not hesitated to denounce anti-Semitism and declare publicly that Hitler was a beast who should be kept in a cage. They are proud that he refused to receive at City Hall the sadistic murderer who derived pleasure from bombing innocent Ethiopian women and children, the son of Mussolini.

They are proud of their anti-fascist Congressman Vito Marcantonio, who fights militantly in their interests, who fights in the courts to free an Italian youth, John Longo, from the clutches of Frank Hague's brand of fascism in

Jersey City, while the fascist "patriots" lift not a finger in his defense. The Italians are proud of the Marcantonio who fights for the unemployed and defends Italian immigrants from the hardships of deportation, while the fascist "patriots" who betray their pledged allegiance to America brand him anti-Italian and their Mussolini-controlled and subsidized press so fears his popularity with the Italian masses that they dare not print his name.

The Italians in America are beginning to learn, just as the Italians in Italy have long since learned through bitter experience, that fascism is their worst enemy. The Italians in America have never really been fascists; they have only cherished a love for Italy. They were misled to believe that this love could only be proved by accepting fascism. Letters from their relatives continue to show that the paradise created by Generoso Pope's fascist press does not and never did exist. Hearing at last the cry of their oppressed brothers in Italy, they are beginning to learn that truly to love Italy means to help destroy fascism, to help free Italy of a regime which has put it back two centuries, a regime which has burdened the Italian people with a hatred that is not merited by them, but merited alone by the savages who rule her through violence and terror.

The Italians of America are beginning to learn that the fundamental struggle today is the struggle between fascism and democracy. That they are choosing democracy has been eloquently demonstrated by the election of the anti-fascist Vito Marcantonio to Congress, and the inglorious defeat of the fascist-saluting Lanzetta, by the Italian people of East Harlem in New York City.

The progressive Italians of America can be justly proud of the democratic traditions inherited from Mazzini and Garibaldi, and the traditions of freedom and equality of Jefferson and Lincoln which they have acquired, together with their citizenship, from their adopted land. They have faith that

their brothers in Italy will have their final day of reckoning with Mussolini and fascism, when the spirit of Mazzini and Garibaldi will prevail once more, and the Italian heroes released from dungeons and prisons and returned from exile will once more lead the Italian people among the civilized nations of the world.

In America, the Italian people stand together with all peace-loving and democracy-loving Americans to keep America democratic and free. They have learned the bitter lesson that tyranny sets men apart, but freedom unites them. In our day's mighty struggle against fascism and war, they know that there are no Jews and no Christians. There are only those who love freedom and those who wish to destroy it.

But fascism shall not destroy it! Not so long as all people, regardless of race, color or creed, are conscious of their duty to civilization and humanity and unite to struggle against it with determination and faith so that fascism shall perish from the face of the earth.

It is not as if Italy will have their land left at the mercy of the sea, and the sea will have their land left at the mercy of the sea. The sea will have their land left at the mercy of the sea, and the sea will have their land left at the mercy of the sea.

In America, the Italian people stand together with all their strength and resources, determined to keep their land and their people safe. They have learned the lesson that it is not enough to have a strong navy and a strong army, but they must also have a strong people.

There are no Jews and no Christians. There are only men who love freedom and life. They will not be divided by race or color, but they will be united by their common love of freedom and life.

It is not enough to have a strong navy and a strong army, but they must also have a strong people. They will not be divided by race or color, but they will be united by their common love of freedom and life.

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